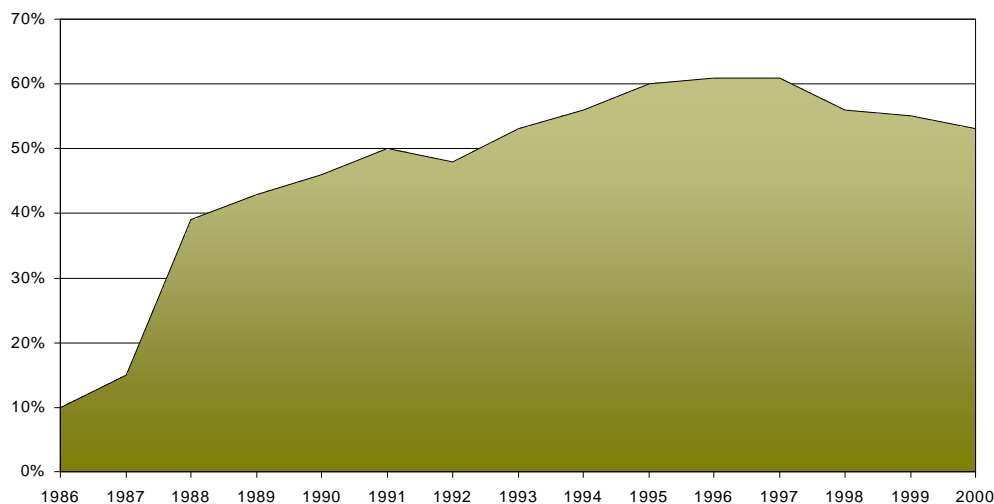


MILESTONE: By the year 2000, recycling rates of 65% of the total solid waste stream and 50% of the municipal waste stream will be achieved, and maintained thereafter

INDICATOR: Recycling Rates

Percent of Total Solid Waste Stream Recycled



1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
10%	15%	39%	43%	46%	50%	48%	53%	56%	60%	61%	61%	56%	55%	53%

New Jersey achieved its previous goal of recycling 60% of the total waste stream in 1997. Once county and municipal recycling programs started to collect plastics, tin and bimetal cans, white goods (e.g., refrigerators), used motor oils, yard waste and other materials, New Jersey set a new recycling goal of 65% of the total waste stream by the end of the year 2000. However, recycling rates declined to 53% in 2000. The major factors in this reduction were the deregulation of the traditional solid waste system in the state due to a Federal Court decision in 1997 and the lack of grant money given to help fund local recycling programs due to the legislative sunset of the tax that supported this initiative. The Department is working with local recycling coordinators, through a combination of outreach and compliance monitoring, to attempt to bring about improvement in recycling from two particular sectors, small business and multi-family housing.

Data Source: NJDEP Solid & Hazardous Waste Management

This fact sheet contains the most current, available data. For additional information on development of this indicator, please see the [Environmental Indicators Technical Report, 2nd Edition](#).